

Appl. No. : 10/061,755
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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-14 (Canceled)

15. (Previously presented) A method of isolating deleterious body tissue located within healthy body tissue from the healthy body tissue by limiting blood and fluid communication with the deleterious body tissue, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a device comprising:

a first structure, including a first circumferential surface arranged to circumscribe the deleterious body tissue; and

a second structure, including a second circumferential surface corresponding to the first circumferential surface;

placing the deleterious body tissue to be isolated between the first circumferential surface and the second circumferential surface of the device; and

bringing the first and second circumferential surfaces of the device together in an aligned relationship with the deleterious body tissue between the first and second structures, wherein the first and second circumferential surfaces co-act to isolate the deleterious body tissue from communication with the healthy body tissue without severing the deleterious body tissue from the healthy body tissue.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, further including the step of bringing the first circumferential surface and the second circumferential surface together against the healthy body tissue immediately surrounding the deleterious body tissue with sufficient force that the deleterious body tissue becomes ischemic and necrotic.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the device further comprises a bias element coupled to the first structure and the second structure that brings the circumferential surfaces of the first and second structures together.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the first and second structures of the device further respectively comprise a first and second aperture arranged so that when the circumferential surfaces are brought together in the aligned relationship, the first aperture and second aperture expose the deleterious body tissue for resection, and wherein the method includes the further step of resecting the deleterious body tissue.

19-27 (Canceled)